



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1793

1. Project Title Expansion of David Posnack Jewish Community Centers (JCC) Special Needs Services and Programs

2. Senate Sponsor Tina Polsky

3. Date of Request 11/17/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The project is an expansion of our growing DPJCC Special Needs services & programs provided for preschool children through adults. A Director of Behavior Support, a BCBA (Board-Certified Behavior Analyst), ensures evidence-based care and measurable outcomes across all programs. HIRE-Ability provides vocational training & job placement through the DPJCC's own Square Bowl Food Truck as well as the greater community. The project will increase job coaches & support for HIRE-Ability, due to the growing need of IDD adults seeking employment. Transitions delivers early intervention for preschoolers with developmental delays, including speech & language therapy. GAP, the Giborim Adult Day Program, builds life skills & community connections for adults with IDD. GibConnect offers after-school enrichment in sports, arts & social skills. A new accessible vehicle will transport participants safely between schools, programs & community job sites, ensuring independence and improved quality of life.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	501,200
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	501,200

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	501,200	66%
Matching Funds		
Federal	200,000	27%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	50,000	7%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	751,200	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	350,000	241A	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction ☐ N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Funding Supports These Positions Who Work with Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD): - Director of Behavior Support, BCBA - Board-Certified Behavior Analyst Required-\$84,000 - GibConnect After-School Coordinator-\$21,600 - HIRE-Ability Coordinator for Vocational Training-\$59,000 - Job Coaches-\$54,600 - IDD Employees hired for Food Truck-\$64,800 - Taxes/Benefits-\$28,400	312,400



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	Funding Supports: - Addition of an accessible vehicle-\$90,000 Providing transportation for all Special Needs programs: • IDD Employees of the Square Bowl Food Truck to events/community partners • GibConnect After-School students • GAP participants Vehicle gas/insurance-\$30,000 - Special Needs program supplies, including sensory materials, visuals & specialized equipment-\$40,000	160,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	- Speech Therapist in Transitions Program - \$26,400 - HIPAA Compliant Software Subscription for Tracking all Special Needs Participants Behaviors, Incidents and History - \$2,400	28,800
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		501,200

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

To strengthen, expand & improve our Special Needs programs/services:

- GAP: Adult Day Program
- HIRE-Ability: Vocational Training
- Transitions: Early Identification/Intervention for Preschoolers with Developmental Delays/Disabilities
- GibConnect After-School, Ages 5-adults
- Behavior Support position advances our capacity & quality in all above programs for individualized support to staff, participants & families, ensuring a consistent, evidence-based approach to behavioral strategies.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Funds will expand the DPJCC's continuum of Special Needs programs: GAP Adult Day Program, HIRE-Ability Vocational Training, Transitions Early Intervention for preschoolers with developmental delays, and GibConnect After-School. The Director of Behavior Support, a BCBA, will guide all programs to ensure evidence-based behavioral, social, and communication outcomes for individuals with IDD.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Direct services include:

- skills training and job coaching for IDD adults in HIRE-Ability on the Square Bowl Food Truck
- speech therapy in Transitions preschool classes
- evidence-based behavior support for all Special Needs programs
- an accessible vehicle providing safe transport for GAP participants, IDD employees to events/community partners and GibConnect After-School students

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

This vulnerable target population includes children and adults (ages two through adults) with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities, as well as individuals facing social, economic, and employment challenges. This encompasses preschoolers requiring early intervention, school-age children in need of after-school support, and adults pursuing vocational training, employment, and day programming. A key focus is expanding opportunities for adults with IDD to achieve meaningful, inclusive employment. Overall, the project will directly serve more than 300 individuals and families each year, enhancing access to vital educational, therapeutic, and employment services.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?



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Benefits include improved health, education, and economic self-sufficiency of vulnerable individuals with IDD. GAP & GibConnect offer a variety of sports & fitness classes, leading to improvements in metrics in mobility, strength & coordination, and reduced health risks. Early intervention and behavioral strategies improve classroom engagement & educational outcomes. Programs provide access to art, music & community events, enriching cultural experiences and promoting inclusion. HIRE-Ability provides vocational training for adults with IDD & creates immediate job opportunities through the Square Bowl Food Truck and related community roles. Together, these programs reduce reliance on public support, foster independence, and strengthen the local economy through inclusive workforce participation. Outcomes are measured through fitness and health data, behavior and progress logs, attendance and surveys, individualized learning plans, job placement, wages, retention, and employer feedback.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Withholding of funding.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):



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17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.